## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SP-02 USIA-15 AID-05 EB-08 NSC-05 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 IGA-02 (092 W

-----021952Z 033344 /41

R 011629Z APR 77 FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1328 INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PANCANAL USCINCSO

**UNCLAS PANAMA 2343** 

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EGEN, EFIN

SUBJECT: ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF TORRIJOS TRIP TO LIBYA

REF: PANAMA 2267

1. EMBOFF ASKED OFFICIAL OF GOP-RUN BANCO NACIONAL IF HE HAD ANY DETAILS ON THE PURPOSE OF THE TRIP TO LIBYA BEYOND THE NEWSPAPER ACCOUNT WHICH MENTIONED STRENGTHEINING ECONOMIC TIES AND EXCHANGING VIEWS ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND WHETHER HE THOUGH LIBYA WAS LOOKING FOR POSSIBILITIES FOR PETRODOLLAR INVESTMENTS.

2. OFFICIAL KNEW OF NO LOAN BEING PLANNED, AND FELT LIBYA "INCAPABLE" OF PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, ALTHOUGH HE BELIEVED TALKS COULD COVER POSSIBILITIES OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. HOWEVER, HE STRESSED THAT THERE ARE NO COMMITMENTS. NO ONE FROM THE BANCO NACIONAL WILL ACCOMPANY THE DELEGATION, HE NOTED, BUT THE MINISTERS OF PLANNING AND FINANCE ARE BOTH MAKING THE TRIP AND WILL PROBABLY OFFER QADHAFI THE USE OF PANAMA'S FACILITIES AS AN INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CENTER, UNCLASSIFIED

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EXCHANGE FACILITIES FOR EURO-CURRENCY, DEPOSITS, AND OTHER BANKING FACILITIES. BUT AS FOR DIRECT LOANS, "THERE IS NOTHING ON THAT," HE STRESSED.

3. THAT EVENING, MARCH 31, IN TV APPEARANCE, TORRIJOS SAID THAT HE HAD NEVER ASKED FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBYA, BUT THAT QADHAFI HAS

SHOWN INTEREST IN THE PANAMANIAN BANKING SYSTEM AND
IN THE FACT THAT PANAMA IS AN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL
CENTER.
JORDEN

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## Message Attributes

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Subject: ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF TORRIJOS TRIP TO LIBYA

TAGS: EGEN, EFIN, LY, (TORRIJOS HERRERA, OMAR)

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